

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 12806 170150Z

71

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /054 W

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R 161310Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4664

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12806

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP JULY 16

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG DATED JULY 16
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, JULY 16

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MOST AREAS OF MR 2 WERE QUIET OVER
THE LAST 72-HOUR PERIOD; MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN
TRADITIONALLY CONTESTED PROVINCES OF KONTUM, BINH DINH AND IN
BINH THU'# THOUGH INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THOSE AREAS WERE FOR
THE MOST PART LISTED AS ENEMY-INITIATED, MANY APPARENTLY RESULTED
FROM RVNAF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. REGION-WIDE THERE WAS A TOTAL
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 12806 170150Z

OF 46 INCIDENTS REPORTED: 25 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, SEVEN

GROUND ATTACKS, FIVE SUCCESSFUL RVNAF SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS, FOUR FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL AND ENEMY, THREE MININGS, AND TWO INCIDENTS IN WHICH TWO VNAF HELICOPTERS WERE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BY ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENTS: 18 IN KONTUM, 12 IN BINH THUAN, EIGHT IN BINH DINH, FIVE IN PHU YEN, TWO IN DARLAC, AND ONE IN QUANG DUC. CASUALTIES: VC/NVA: 27 KIA, TWO CAPTURED; RVNAF: FIVE KIA, 39 WIA. OWING TO UNFAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS, ONLY FOUR VNAF TACAIR STRIKES WERE FLOWN OVER KONTUM THROUGHOUT PERIOD.

2. BINH THUAN: SIX OF 12 BINH THUAN INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE ON JULY 13 AND RESULTED FROM "PEACE CAMPAIGN" OPERATION RUN BY RF IN HAM THUAN DISTRICT. ENEMY LOSSES FROM OPERATION REPORTED AS: SEVEN ENEMY KIA, 170 CAMP STRUCTURES AND 14 BUNKERS DESTROYED, 300 KILOGRAMS OF RICE CAPTURED. RF LOST ONLY ONE KIA.

3. PHU YEN: SIMILARLY, PHU YEN RF CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN FORMERLY VC-CONTROLLED AREAS OF HIEU XUONG AND TUY AN DISTRICTS ON JULY 13 AND 14, RESULTING IN: CAPTURE OF TWO FEMALE VC CADRE; DESTRUCTION OF VC TRAINING CENTER COMPRISING 100 CAMP STRUCTURES, ONE ASSEMBLY HALL AND ONE SCHOOL BUILDING; DESTRUCTION OF 50 BUNKERS; CAPTURE OF ONE TON OF RICE AND EIGHT 105MM SHELLS.

4. KONTUM: THE 18 INCIDENTS REPORTED FROM KONTUM ARE SLIGHTLY FEWER THAN AVERAGE OF PAST FEW WEEKS. HOWEVER, CONSUL KONTUM REPORTS THAT DECLINE NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFICANT BUT REFLECTS ONLY NORMAL RISE AND FALL IN TIDE OF BATTLE. RVNAF AND ENEMY REMAIN STALEMATED IN ENVIRONS OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE WITH NO INDICATIONS OF RVNAF PROGRESS FROM POSITIONS HELD LAST WEEK, OR THAT EITHER SIDE IS PREPARING TO SLACK OFF.

5. PRESIDENT VISITS NINH THUAN: PRES THIEU VISITED HIS NATIVE NINH THUAN PROVINCE JULY 14 FOR SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS. ON THIS VISIT HE LAID CORNERSTONE OF SUGAR PLANT AT THAP CHAM OUTSIDE PHAN RANG. PLANT WILL USE MAINLY OLD EQUIPMENT FROM MILL AT HIEP HOA, HAU NGHIA, AND WILL HAVE CAPACITY OF 400 MT OF CANE PER DAY WHEN IT GOES INTO OPERATION IN 1975. IN EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS, PRESIDENT DISCUSSED IRRIGATION AND GROWING AND PROCESSING OF SUGAR CANE AS BOONS TO PROVINCE ECONOMY; POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IF SECURITY WILL PERMIT; AND NEED FOR SOCIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12806 170150Z

AND POLITICAL SOLIDARITY. HE REITERATED IN HARD-HITTING FASHIION THAT THERE CAN BE ONLY TWO POLITICAL TENDENCIES IN VIET-NAM TODAY, THE NATIONALIST/ANTI-COMMUNIST AND THE COMMUNIST. EXPRESSING EYE-FOR-AN-EYE PHILOSOPHY, PRES THIEU SAID "IF THE COMMUNISTS ASSISSINATE (AM-SAT) OUR PEOPLE, WE SHOULD GO OUT AND ASSASSINATE THEM."

6. RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S APPEARANCE AND REMARKS BY HIGHLY

REGIMENTED AUDIENCE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND WAS MODERATELY ENTHUSIASTIC.
ENTOURAGE FROM SAIGON INCLUDED CHARGE APPLING, OTHER MEMBERS
OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS. PRIME MINISTER
WAS LISTED ON PROGRAM BUT DID NOT APPEAR; HOWEVER, HE WAS
SCHEDULED TO PERFORM SIMILAR RITES AT SPRING-WATER BOTTLING
PLANT IN TUY PHONG DISTRICT, BINH THUAN, LATER SAME DAY IN
PRESENCE OF SAME SAIGON ENTOURAGE.
TEARE
UNQUOTE.
APPLING

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